GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:680
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday;Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest land can be diverted for non-forest purposes including developmental activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such proposals received by the Government during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the number of proposals cleared and rejected during the said period and the details of the pending projects along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all the proposals are likely to be granted clearance by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) The diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes including developmental purposes require prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) & (c) The details of proposals received by the Central Government in the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 along with details of projects approved/ rejected by the Central Government is given in Annexure I. Details of proposals under consideration of the Central Government is given in Annexure II:

Detailed site inspection is required in proposals involving more than 100 ha of forest land. Quite often the proposals received are not complete in all respects and the Central Government has to seek further details/ documents from the concerned State Governments. These are the main reasons of pendency of the proposals.

(d) The proposals for diversion of forest land are processed in the Ministry of Environment & Forests and then considered by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Ministry takes a decision after considering the recommendations of the Committee. Proposals involving 100 ha or more forest land are also inspected in detail by the officers of the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. The Ministry takes prompt action to consider the projects for forest clearance when proposals complete in all respects are received.